

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request the foregoing amendments be entered into the above-referenced application prior to the calculation of the claim fee and prior to examination on the merits. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments were made primarily to bring the above-referenced application into conformance with United States practice.

Claim 6 was amended to reflect that the protein advantageously may comprise gelatin and/or collagen. Support for this amendment can be found in the English translation of the Application-as-filed, for example in Claim 6-as filed and further on Page 5, lines 21 through 22.

Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 17 has more particularly been amended to reflect that the inventive food casings may additionally have at least one further layer which does not comprise protein. Support for this amendment can be found in the English translation of the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 9, lines 5 through 6.

Claim 25 has been added to complete the record for examination and highlight advantageous embodiments of the invention. Claim 25 is directed to inventive food casings formed from fibrous material derived from a flat fibrous material coated on one or both sides, in which the coating is based on protein and is applied uniformly to the fibrous material. Support for Claim 25 can be found in the English translation of the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 3, lines 21 through 32.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 25 are in condition for allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via Express Mail No. 814050511 US on May 31, 2006.

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